

Application No. 10/057,989
Amendment dated January 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2003

REMARKS

Following amendment, 25 total claims (claims 1, 3-16, and 18-27) and 3 independent claims (claims 1, 15, and 25) remain in this application. Specifically, the claims have been amended to place the present application in better condition for examination and allowance by clarify the subject matter of the present invention and by correction minor typographical and grammatical errors. Applicant wishes to express appreciation for the Office Action's indication that the current claims (1, 3-16, and 18-27) would contain allowable subject matter if written to satisfy the requirements of 35 USC §101. Applicant believes that the present Amendment adds no new subject matter and respectfully request the entering of this Amendment. Each of the grounds for claim rejections is now addressed below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §101

In response to the Office Action's rejection of the claims under 35 USC §101, the Applicant, using the assistance and recommendations from various representatives of the Patent and Trademark Office, has amended the claims to clearly limit the scope of the present invention to technical nature. Accordingly, it is believed that this ground for rejection has been overcome.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn. All pending claims are allowable over the art of record, and the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

In the event that an appropriate fee amount is not enclosed by check for fees associated with new claims, an extension of time or an Information Disclosure Statement, fees that may be due, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account no. 50-1349.

Finally, in the event that the Examiner considers certain currently rejected claims to be allowable over the prior art and feels that informal discussion would be helpful in progressing the

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current application toward allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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